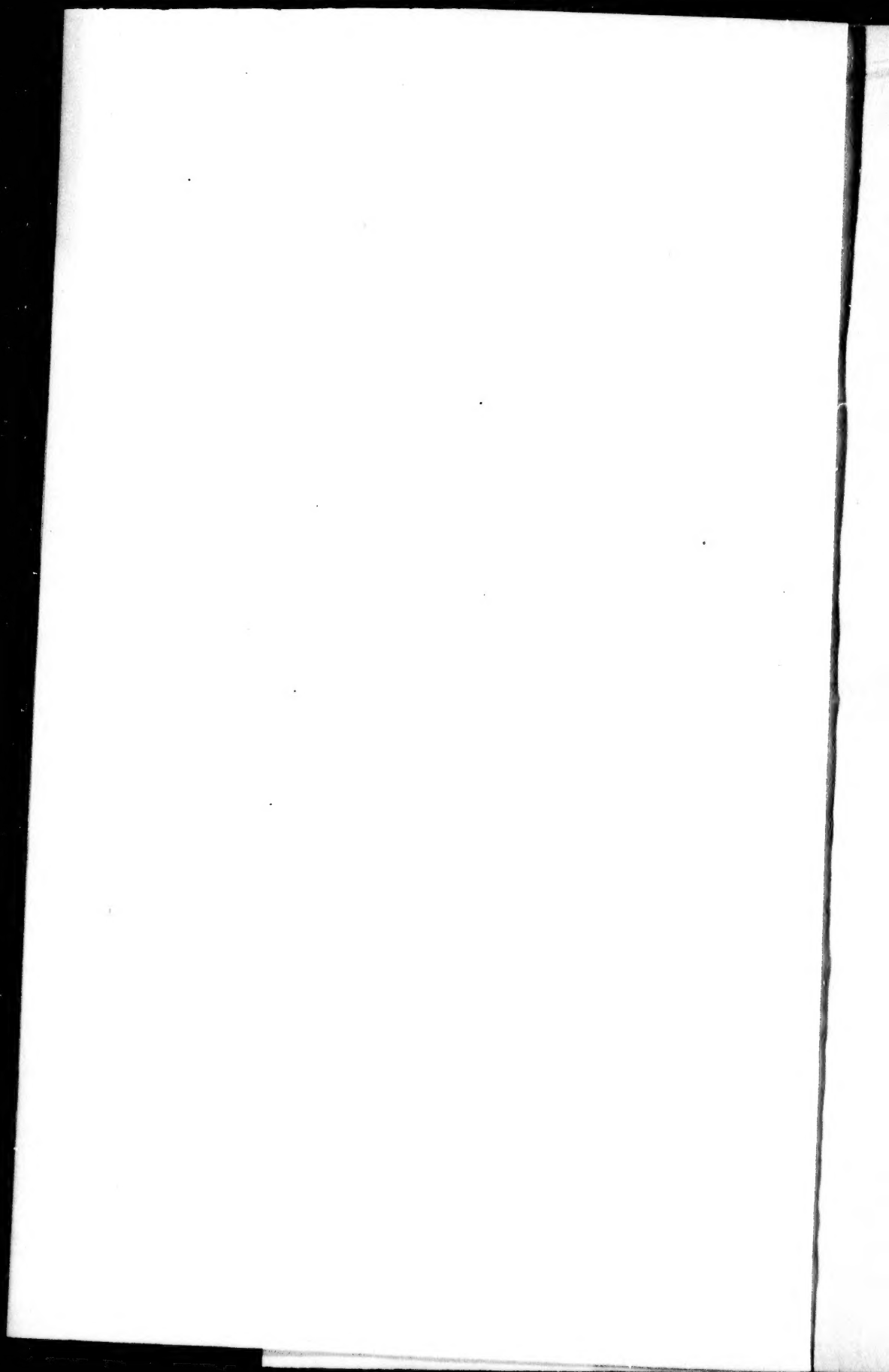




REASONS why the Montreal Gas Light Company should be protected by the Legislature (irrelevant of the particular clauses of any Bills for incorporating another Company.)

1st.—Because, that the present Company embarked in a precarious enterprise, which, in this climate was not only precarious but hazzardous; and, encountering the greatest difficulties, they had to purchase their experience, in some respects, at a very dear rate,—that had it not been for the individual exertion and energy of certain persons, the project might have proved a failure; and had not the whole of the unsubscribed stock been taken up by one individual, the establishment might possibly not been gone into operation. That a large amount of the originally subscribed stock was not paid up by the parties who subscribed it,—and it was sold at public auction,—that the stock fell in value, a large amount having been sold at 20 to 25 per cent discount; indeed an opinion was entertained that the Gas Company would meet with obstacles and difficulties that would prevent their carrying the works into operation and that they would fail in their attempt to light the City with Gas—that starting under these disadvantages and having had to purchase their experience, it is natural they should look to the Legislature to afford them a reasonable protection; that it is peculiarly hard, now, that the affairs of the Company have arrived at a favorable position, that a new Company should be permitted to reap those advantages which the present Company have purchased.—*Unless indeed that they can prove to the Legislature that there is something unreasonable in the present Company's charges—or, that they give the Legislature satisfaction that they will limit the prices, to be charged by them, to the rates which the individuals who compose the proposed new Company, have professed their ability to perform the service for, and will lay such mains as will obviate the future uplifting of the streets—and prevent the public injury and inconvenience which they attribute to the present Company, in consequence of the mains being too small.*

2d.—Because, that several miles of the main pipes which have been laid by the present Company, in good faith, at the instance of the City authorities—in localities which are entirely unproductive and must remain so for years (except for street lights) viz: in St. Antoine street, Bleury street, St. Denis street, Sherbrook street, College wall, St. Lambert street, St. Alexander street, Grey Nuns street, and it may be said, the whole extent of the wharves. That they were laid, as before stated, in good faith, that the Corporation would continue at all events to pay a *reasonable rate* to a Company which had extended pipes into such localities *—and that the Legislature, seeing the large expence the present Gas Company had been at, to effect the public advantage, by acquiescing in the requirements of the Corporation, would not sanction the establishment of another Company, which by laying only a fifth part of the extent of mains that the present Company have laid, would nevertheless be able to supply Notre Dame, St. Paul, McGill & St. James streets, where the principal consumption is—and so by a comparatively small outlay, take the bulk of the Consumers and render that part of the city which has been remunerative (and the remuneration from which, has induced the Company to extend its pipes and thereby increase its outlay) altogether unproductive to them.

Note.—To exemplify what is here meant, it may be supposed that a new Company were to go into operation, and that they were to limit their supply of Gas to Notre Dame, St. Paul, St. James, St. François Xavier, McGill and one or two other streets. They would be in a position to supply, with a comparatively small extent of main,—*the greater part of the Gas consumers of this City*, and there can be no doubt that such a privilege would be giving the greatest advantage to a new Company—or to the public—but it is to be hoped that no Legislature would sanction so obvious an act of injustice to the present Company.

3d.—Because, the complaints that have been alleged against the present Company are *unfounded* and based on misrepresentations; and the premises of the intended new Company, in regard to their ability are false,—as the following statements will shew.

The misrepresentations in regard to the present Gas Company will be understood from the following narrative of facts.

At the time of the Incorporation of this City and until 1840 there were only 150 Gas lamps and they were confined to the principal streets and public places.

The Corporation then opened a communication with the Gas Company in regard to carrying the Gas Lights through all the principal thoroughfares of the City; and the Gas Company either had the alternative of extending their mains, at a large outlay, into localities that were comparatively unproductive, or subject themselves to a competition with another Company that would be established, or, indeed to being opposed, by the Corporation erecting Gas Works, in order to effect an efficient mode of lighting the streets. The Gas Company thought it better to do what the Corporation required, and although the Gas mains then covered the portions of the town that were remunerative, in consequence, of there being private consumers on the lines, the Company consented to be bound, by the Corporation to carry their pipes wherever they were required, so to do—and it was agreed that the Corporation was to pay £8 per annum for each lamp burning 2½ feet of gas per hour.—The mutual, understanding between the two contracting parties were adhered to, until a contract (which has been made for one year) expired on the 1st Nov. 1843—the Gas Company having laid pipes, at the instance of the Corporation to an extent to enable, them to light 325 lamps, or, in other words had doubled the extent of main pipe, that they originally had,—and as was before observed, they were carried into all non remunerative portions of the City and suburbs. No sooner were the pipes laid, than the acts and proceedings of the Corporation evinced a feeling and intention which amounted to this.

* See Mr. Darricoot's remarks on the refusal of the Broun Gas Company to lay pipes for street lights only, unless there were an adequate number of private consumers on the line.

THE GAS COMPANY HAVE LAID PIPES IN ALL THE SUBURBS AND OUT WAY PLACES IN THIS CITY AND WE (the Corporation) HAVE THEM IN OUR POWER! WE WILL COMPEL THEM TO LIGHT THE LAMPS ON OUR OWN TERMS OR WE WILL THREATEN TO DISCONTINUE LIGHTING WITH GAS AND WE WILL LIGHT WITH OIL.—THE LINES OF PIPES WHICH THEY HAVE LAID WILL THUS BE RENDERED ALTOGETHER USELESS—AND THE COMPANY MUST EITHER SUBMIT TO OUR TERMS OR BE RUINED!—actually, by this resolve the Light Committee published the following Report:—

CORPORATION OF MONTREAL.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

REPORTED FOR THE TIMES.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held at 7 o'clock on Saturday last, the 17th instant. Present: His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Lunn, Councillors Mathewson, Beaubien, Trudeau, Jodoin, Stuart, Tully, Larocque, and Molson.

A report was brought up from the Light Committee, representing "That on coming into office, they had been apprized, that the contract with the Gas Company for lighting the City, had expired on the 1st Nov. preceding. That being of opinion the price hitherto paid for gas was extravagantly high, taking into consideration the rate at which gas was paid for in the United States, the low price of coals in Montreal, and the irregular and insufficient supply, furnished to the city—they (the Committee) had entered into communications with the manager of the Montreal Gas Company, to ascertain the lowest rate at which the gas might be obtained for six or twelve months, leaving the period to be determined upon, optional with the Committee. That the Gas Company, as would appear by the manager's letter, appended to the report, declined entering into a contract for any lesser period than twelve months; or to abate in the terms on which they had hitherto provided the city with light, unless, indeed, the Corporation would take charge of lighting and extinguishing, cleaning and repairing the lamps, in which case they would make a deduction of one pound cy. per annum, on each lamp.

"That the Committee had likewise entered into communications with the city authorities of New York, Albany and Boston, with a view to learn the terms on which gas light was obtained in these cities; and also to what extent camphine and vegetable oil could be made available for the purpose of lighting the city. That to the polite consideration of Wm. Parker, Esquire, of Boston, late Chairman of the Board of Aldermen, having direction of the Department of Light in that city, the Committee were greatly indebted for *much valuable information, and many extremely important suggestions* on the subject matter of the communications had with him. That much of that information and of these suggestions, would be found in the letters of Mr. Parker, appended to the report.

"That from the information obtained by the Committee, and now laid before the Council, they were unanimously of opinion, and therefore recommended, that thenceforth the public lights should be placed under the superintendence of the City Police; that the lamps should be lighted and extinguished, cleaned and repaired, by extra policemen employed for that specific purpose, who should be required to reside in the several police stations of the city, to preserve the necessary control and surveillance which ought to be maintained in relation to them, and to facilitate the objects of their appointment; and that the same regulations should be established for the provision of light on moonlight nights, as had been found, by experience, to be most satisfactory in Boston, viz., that when the moon sets before seven or eight o'clock, P. M., the lamps should be lighted; and that when, during the night, the moon's position was such, as to rising and setting, that it became necessary or unnecessary to light, the lighting should be effected or omitted accordingly—in some degree depending upon the weather and the discretion of the Chief of Police, or other officer in command for the time being.

"Finally, the Committee recommend that as an amply remunerative allowance, the sum of £4 per lamp should be offered the Gas Company for lighting the city; and if that offer were rejected, that after three months' notice to the Company, the city be no longer lighted with gas—but with oil." (February 19th, 1844.)

On reading this Report the Gas Company saw too plainly their position, and their representations to the Council for an honourable view of the spirit of their understanding which had induced the Gas Company to lay the great extent of pipes, were unavailing.

Under the impression that the substance of the Report might be relied upon (the Report was presented to the Council on the 17th February, 1844,) and that the price offered to the Montreal Gas Company was the price at which the City of Boston was lighted, viz.:—£4 per lamp, the Company saw there would be no alternative but that they should either yield to the demand of the Corporation or have their long extended mains thrown useless. On the 27th February, they addressed the Council stating that they would undertake the service of lighting 302 Lamps for £1600 per annum, equal to £4 8s. 4d.* per lamp, and at the same time requested that they might be permitted to have communication of Mr. Parker's letter, which these reports stated contained "much valuable information and many extremely important suggestions." The communication of this letter, to the Gas Company, was refused, and on the 7th March, a peremptory demand was made to the Gas Company, whether they intended to accept the price named in the Report, viz.:—£4. As the Gas Company did not think the course taken by the Corporation, of withholding Mr. Parker's letter a straight forward one, no reply was made to this letter of the 7th March. A strong feeling of surprise, at the letter being concealed, was expressed by the Company, and this expression, coupled with the fact that the period would shortly arrive when the City, if the report was adhered to, would be lighted with oil, induced a note

* The Corporation to be at the expense of lighting and extinguishing Lamps and keeping them in repair.

from the City Clerk to the Gas Company, but not until the 26th March, stating that the letters upon which the Report was founded were opened for the Company's inspection at his office.

On examining Mr. Parker's letter the Company found that there were 305 Gas Lamps lighted in Boston at a cost of \$7466.79—or £6 2s. 5d. PER LAMP, and the "extremely important suggestion" was that "an allowance should be made" (in favour of the Montreal Gas Light Company over and above the price which is paid in Boston) "for difference of latitude and length of darkness in your climate" and that "ten per cent is quite enough."

The Gas Company felt that they had been grossly deceived by the misstatements and duplicity, perhaps the misapprehension on the part of the individuals of the Corporation; and immediately revoked their offer of lighting the lamps for £4 8s. 4d.—and concluded that as the Corporation had sought information from Boston, and must, in so doing, have considered that City a fair Criterion,—the old price of £6 per lamp should be adhered to. It may be also stated that in Montreal the lanterns are the property of the Gas Company, and are kept in repair at the Company's expense, while in Boston they belong to the Corporation, and the repairs are paid for by the Corporation.

It has also been stated, with the design of prejudicing the public in favour of a new Gas Company and against the existing company, that the charge made to private consumers is unreasonable and exorbitant. It is altogether impossible for the individuals who have proposed to establish a new Gas Company to come to a correct conclusion, as to what would be a fair and equitable charge, until their works are in operation, and they obtain proof practically. The only means of forming a correct estimate is to refer to the charges made in other Cities on this continent where if the profits of the Gas Companies were enormous, it is rational to infer there would have been opposition Companies established; or to consider whether the profits of the Montreal Gas Light Company are unreasonable. In order to solve both these propositions reference cannot be made to a better document than to the Report of the Committee of the Corporation appointed to treat with the Gas Company for the purchase of the Gas Works. *

The following are extracts from the said Report elucidating these subjects :

" In the course of their investigation, your Committee has had communication of various letters, and enquiries made in regard to the cost in New York, Boston, and Albany, and find material variations to exist in the charge at which these cities are lighted, while in England still wider differences exist in the charge made to the public for lighting the streets. In London the charge for gas is 7s, say 7s per 1000 feet, and in Manchester about 5s. In New York the charge to private consumers is 35s, although the public lamps are supplied very cheap—at about 55s each, while in Boston the lamps cost the Corporation about the same as is charged by the Company in this city.

" The Company report the private tenants to consist of 384 parties, consumers of gas, exclusive of the public lamps—of which 367 are lighted at a charge of £6 each. The quantity of gas made during the period above referred to was 8,631,416 feet, as shewn in the table of monthly returns, which being no more than is proved to be required for daily consumption, will show that although the price charged for the public lamps is apparently excessive in the opinion of the Council, and the charge of 25s per 1000 cubic feet to private consumers, may be considered exorbitant; the actual returns when compared with the revenue derived by the Company, exhibits the somewhat singular result, that the Company actually receives for its gas at the rate of but 14s 7d per 1000 cubic feet, instead of 25s as charged.

" Your Committee consider it necessary in the pursuance of the duties devolved upon them to lay before the Council some portions of the information they have obtained, touching the existing establishment or the formation of new works, as the grounds which have influenced the Committee in arriving at the conclusions contained in this report; and they consider it but fair and proper here to remark, that though they have had no access to the books of the Company, they have found the communications made to the Chairman in respect to cost, expenses, income and revenue by one of the proprietors, corroborated through other sources of information, to an extent, leaving no doubts on the minds of the Committee as regards the correctness of such data. It would appear that the gross income derived by the Company for the 12 months ending, 1st Nov. last, was..... £6,300 0 0
And that the value of Coke made was..... 657 0 0

" Amounting in all to..... £6,957 0 0
" And the expenses, for the same period, of all descriptions amounted to £1,981
" Together with consumption of coals for same period, 1128 chal., at 30s. 1,798 3,779 5 0
" Leaving..... £3,178 0 0
" Which is the revenue of very nearly £53,000, at 6 per cent., being about 12½ per cent. upon the expenditure stated by the Company to have been made—Annexed."

Thus it will be seen that while the price charged for Gas in Montreal is only 25s per 1000 feet—the price charged in New York is 35s. for the same quantity.

And against the 12½ per cent which, is stated in the last paragraph to be the profit of the Company, have to be set off allowances for bad debts, losses, accidents, wear and tear, so that the net profit cannot be fairly considered to be more than 10 per cent; and this for a manufacturing establishment, cannot surely be considered unreasonable.

It now remains to shew that the premises of the new Company are false and that the information they have received from a Mr. Edge is illusory and, if acted upon will be attended with disappointment and loss to the New Company as well as to the existing Company—and will, merely for the sake of opposition as the Report of the Special Committee of the Corporation remarks, involve an expense of £6000 for restoring the streets "without taking into calculation the unavoidable injury to those streets through the removal of the blocks, and excavating, or the

* See the 4th 5th & 6th Paragraphs in the Report, of the Special Committee, made the 10th July 1845.

" probability that such removal and excavation may entail the necessity—FOR A SECOND RAISING AND RELAYING.

The illusion cannot be more distinctly explained than by giving an extract from the Report of the Directors of the Gas Company to the Shareholders, in which it is pointed out to them why the charges in this Country can never approximate to the charges for Gas in Britain—premising that when Mr. Edge tendered his information, it was in ignorance of the facts herein developed.

" Now in regard to the charge for Gas to the private consumers, it will be proper here to state why the charges in this Country never can approximate the charges made in Britain. The Montreal Gas Company purchased their Apparatus, &c. in London, and assuming, for the sake of exemplification, that the said Apparatus and Pipes cost..... Sterling, £10,000 0 0
 " The expenses thereon, consisting of Exchange, Duty, Freight, Insurance, Breakage, &c., amounted to about 50 per cent.,..... 5,000 0 0

£15,000 0 0

" Making in Montreal the cost £15,000, Currency, while the cost in London is only £10,000, Sterling..... £500 0 0
 " In London the common rate of interest is 5 per cent., which on £10,000 is.... £500 0 0
 " In Montreal do 6 per cent., which on £15,000 is.... £900 0 0
 " So that while a clear income of £500 is only necessary to pay interest on the outlay in Britain, £900 is required for that purpose here.

" The outlay in the erection and completion of the Works is attended with a proportionably extra expense. For instance, the whole of the Gasometers have to be protected in the best possible manner, by frost proof buildings, and the Pipes are laid 4 and 4½ feet deep, and even at that depth are frequently affected by the frost.

" But is not the mere comparison of the price of Gas in Montreal with the price paid in Newcastle, Manchester, Sheffield, and other places, setting reason and common fairness at defiance, when coal may be had at one fourth the price that it can be procured for in Montreal? The Company have imported coals from Newcastle, which cost 31s. 6d. per ton, (which is equal to or over 40s. per chaldron.) The price in Newcastle is 6s. 9d. per ton, and taking into account the difference between our charge in currency, and the sterling price in certain towns in Britain, the ratio of our charges for Gas is only in proportion to the cost of coals, without taking into consideration the extra charge that it is necessary to make (as shewn in the foregoing paragraph) to pay legal interest on the capital expended, and injury done by the frost by Pipes breaking. The coke is used to a great extent as fuel for heating the retorts, and as it has been surmised that the value of the coke amounted to nearly as much as the coal, it may be here proper to state that the saleable quantity of coke from the 1st Nov. 1843, to 1st Nov. 1844, only amounted to £469 13s. 8d., although it is erroneously stated in the Report of the Committee of the Corporation to have amounted to £657.

" The real price received by the Gas Company is as follows;—from the first of November, 1843, to 1844, the quantity of Gas made, according to the following extract from the Gas Maker's Daily Journal was:

1843—November.....	821,790
December.....	793,125
1844—January.....	675,822
February.....	701,539
March.....	742,374
April.....	678,866
May.....	706,274
June.....	611,140
July.....	684,350
August.....	661,930
September.....	715,178
October.....	828,160

8,631,496 Cubic feet.

" If 8,631,496 Cubic feet yield an income of £6300 6 7 what is the rate per M.—Answer 14s. 7d.

" So that the Company are receiving not 25s., but only 14s. 7d. per M. Cubic feet. The difficulty, and it may be said the impossibility of keeping Meters and Pipes in this climate, in order and working condition, and the consequent profuse and wasteful use of the Gas, must in a great measure account for this. And much as such a state of things is to be regretted, the Directors see an insurmountable difficulty in preventing it."

4th.—Because, the public opinion has always been in favour of the Gas Works (as well as the Water Works; the purchase of which by the Corporation of Montreal was sanctioned by the Legislature) being the property of the Corporation, in order that it might exercise proper control over the streets, which have been put in their present state at so great an expence to the Citizens—and that the Corporation might regulate the lighting of the streets, without being subject to the interference of interested parties, such as would constitute a private Company, and that the "surplus profits" could then be applied to the public benefit.

That the paving, blocking and macadamizing of the streets, which have cost the Citizens generally, £20,000 to £30,000 ought not to be interfered with and broken up because a few individuals, who are influenced either by interest, or a mere spirit of opposition, are desirous of embarking in an undertaking that must prove so inconvenient to the Citizens generally—and so ruinous to the streets of a City already involved in debt to an enormous extent.

APPENDIX.

REMARKS on the Benefits that the Public have derived from the Establishment of GAS WORKS.

As it has been stated that the public have not been benefited by the establishment of the Gas Works, owing to the high price charged, it may be proper to give the following table, compiled at a period when an attempt was made, by interested persons, to create a feeling against the Gas Company. Previous to the Gas Works being put in operation information, in writing, was obtained from the principal Grocery Stores, in regard to the actual cost of lighting with oil.

" The Exchange News Room cost, for being lighted with oil or otherwise,			
" £40 per annum, and when the great outcry on a former occasion was			
" made, the charge for lighting that establishment with Gas was £14 17 4			
" The Store of W. Phillips & Co., cost for lighting with oil,			
		£26 0 0	with gas £20 0 0
"	"	"	"
"	"	Panton & Foster,	" 18 0 0 " " 8 12 8
"	"	McIntosh & Co.,	" 43 0 9 " " 27 15 0
"	"	Carter & Cowan,	" 31 4 0 " " 13 5 0
"	"	S. Mathewson,	" 16 18 0 " " 8 12 8"

(From Minutes made by the Gas Company.)

THE EFFICIENCY OF THE STREET LIGHTS.

Interested parties have also complained that the street lights are not good, and in a pamphlet published on the 21st April (evidently written by a party interested in the New Company) it is stated, that the Gas Lights are of less utility and greater cost than the light provided, before their introduction. Complaints of this nature have been made before, and the Gas Company deemed it necessary to establish a scientific test of the quality of light emitted, by the Gas Lamps. The following certificate of Drs. Holmes and Hall, will shew the result of the investigation.

" We the undersigned, were present yesterday at the performance of experiments to ascertain the relative intensity of the light afforded by the old lamps formerly employed for lighting this City, and the Gas Lights now in use. The result of the experiments, which were conducted, on Count Rumford's principle, leaves on our minds no doubt whatever as to the superiority of the Gas Light for the purpose specified."

" Assuming the luminosity of the Gas Light to be unity, or one, the decrease in intensity of the other subjects of experiments was respectively as follows :

" a small wax taper.....	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
" old street lamps, after burning 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours.....	6 $\frac{1}{16}$
" do do do 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	9 $\frac{1}{16}$

" Or in other words, it would require 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ wax tapers to afford a light equal, to that of the Gas Jet, and on the same principle with respect to the old street lamps."

(Signed) A. F. HOLMES, M. D.
A. HALL, M. D.

(From the Montreal Gas Light Company's minutes.)

REMARKS UPON THE BREAKING UP OF THE STREETS OF THE CITY.

However sanguine some persons may be of the success of New Works, the Directors do not consider the position of the present Company at all unfavorable to meet any competition that may be offered. The Legislature having sanctioned the establishment of the present Gas Works, would not likely consent that the vested property of the individuals who first embarked in a precarious enterprise, should be affected, upon the mere determination of some individuals to establish opposition Gas Works, for the sake of opposition. Nor would it consent to the trenching, and consequent destruction of the blocking and paving, which have cost so enormous a sum to the City unless indeed it proved that there is something unfair and unreasonable in the charges of the present Company, a thing it must be certainly difficult to prove, when it is a fact which is admitted in the Report of the Special Com-

mittee that the charge for Gas in New York is THIRTY FIVE SHILLINGS CURRENCY per M. cubic feet, while in Montreal it is only TWENTY FIVE SHILLINGS, and that the Public Lamps are only charged \$24 in Montreal, while in Boston, a City which the Corporation thought to be a fair criterion for establishing the price, charges \$24.48, or, unless the Legislature in granting an Act of Incorporation, limits the price that shall be charged by any New Company it may incorporate, to the price named in the offer made by Mr. Edge, viz:—12s. per M. cubic feet for Gas, and £4 4s. for Street Lamps. In such case the stockholders may rest assured that the establishment would be worked at such a loss as affectually to prevent the continuance of its operation. The Report of the Special Committee comprehends the effect that would be produced by trenching the streets for New Works in the following paragraph:—

“Before coming to a conclusion, the attention of your Committee was forcibly attracted to the consideration of the very great inconvenience to which the inhabitants of the city, generally, would be subjected, should the Council determine upon the opening of the streets, with a view to the establishment of new Gas Works, and the serious injury which would, by a general overturn of the pavements, be suffered by the shop-keepers and others, whose business would be at least materially interfered with; and your Committee feel satisfied to refrain from more extended comments upon the bearing which this notice of the subject will have upon the ultimate decision of the Council.”

Nor is this all: at the outset, the Company charged the Service Pipe to the proprietors or occupiers of the houses into which the Gas was introduced, but immediately changed that system, seeing that at a future period an opposition Company, if the services belonged to private individuals, would only have to run a main pipe, and the services already laid might be attached thereto—a state of things that would be highly advantageous for a new Company, and equally disadvantageous for the present Company. Upon the present system, therefore, not only would a new Company have to open the streets for a main pipe, but on an average of thirty feet apart, side trenches would have to be made, and supposing that to be done in Notre Dame street, St. Paul, St. James, and other streets, it is not difficult to imagine what a plight those handsome and well-paved streets would be put in; not only would the blocks have to be taken up, but the causeways also, at each interval of thirty feet, or less, and they could never be restored to their present perfect state.

(From the Report of the Directors to the Shareholders.)

THE SIZE AND CAPACITY OF THE MONTREAL GAS WORKS, AND THE PURIFICATION OF THE GAS.

It may be proper here to say a few words, relative to the capacity or capability of your Works. Every argument, whether founded on truth or mis-statement, that could be found to pander to the public mind, has been industriously brought forward, by anonymous writers, as well against the Works as the Company, and its management. The Pipes, it is said, are too small! What proof have they of this? Is it that the public lights are *not sufficiently supplied*? If any one looks at the blaze of light that is given in the streets of this City, (unless affected by some local stoppages, or by frost), no doubt can remain, either of the sufficiency of the supply of Gas or the adequacy of the pipes and apparatus. “But if Montreal increases during the ensuing five years, as it has increased during the “past—will the capacity of the works be sufficient then?” In answer to this, it may be confidently stated, that it will be a long time before any real incapacity of the present Pipes, &c. is experienced; and when the City shall have increased to such an extent as to render an increase of the means of supply necessary, the difficulty and expense of effecting that increase will be comparatively inconsiderable & trifling. In order that the Shareholders may understand the matter, a sketch of the main leading Pipes is appended to this Report, which explains the facility with which the capability of the present Pipes may be increased, and which, there can be no doubt, will satisfactorily prove that the outcry against the Works on this head, has originated in misrepresentation and ignorance. In the sweeping denunciations that have been made by those anonymous writers, the quality of the Gas has not escaped them. Although it is perhaps beneath the Company to notice such accusations, it may be necessary to the Shareholders to be informed that the purifying apparatus now used was made by Messrs. Barlow & Co. of London, the most celebrated manufacturers of Gas Apparatus, perhaps, in the world. And for the character of the identical mode of purification, the Shareholders are referred to the best and most extensive work on Gas that has ever appeared, lately published by Mr. Clegg, Junr. The work lies on the table, and it will be found that the mode of purification, as pursued in Montreal, is first on the list of purifying processes.

The Directors now advert to the charges made for Gas to the Corporation and to private consumers.

In the Report of the Special Committee it is admitted, as above stated, that the price in Boston for the public Lamps is about the same as in Montreal. The Boston Gas Works have been in operation since the year 1834, and there has been no indication of dissatisfaction there in regard to the price.

The whole of the communications of this Company with the Corporation, in reference to the rate charged, have had reference to the charges made in Boston, *because it was considered by the Corporation that Boston was a fair criterion.* And the Corporation having selected Boston for a criterion, it may reasonably be asked, but without the hope of receiving an equally reasonable reply: Wherefore should the persecution that has been raised against the charge be countenanced by the Corporation, who, it must be supposed, are desirous of acting on a principle of justice, and have invoked information from Boston, as a means of deciding the fairness or unfairness of the charge made by the Montreal Gas Company?

(From the Report of the Directors to the Shareholders.)

REMARKS IN ANSWER TO MR. EDGE'S PROPOSALS.

The Letter of Mr. Thomas Edge, Manufacturer of Gas Meters and Gas Fittings, of Westminster, is a singular production to be brought forward. The offer made by Mr. Edge, of erecting opposition Works for the Corporation (even if he were more capable than the Corporation of Montreal of expending £50,000 on a very hazardous speculation,) was made in ignorance of facts—even of the difference between sterling and currency, and the expenses attending the laying down and completing Gas Works in this country, and the Directors consequently attach very little importance to such an offer. Mr. Edge is a manufacturer, and if he could prevail upon the Corporation to give him a *carte blanche* for the erection of *good and extensive Gas Works*, upon the flattering but delusive idea, that the money would not have to be paid for seven or fourteen years, the Directors entertain no doubt as to what would be the issue. At the present value of iron, and with the streets to put in plight after being trenched for laying the Pipes, the Corporation Gas Works might supply their Public Lamps, but the present Gas Works would stand, and could be worked at a rate (although it might not be a remunerative one) that would, to use the expression of the Special Committee, “No doubt be of advantage to private individuals, however much it might injure the existing Company, **OR PARALYZE THE EFFORTS OF THE CORPORATION FOR A REMUNERATING REVENUE**, should it “embark upon the enterprise.”

It is perhaps useless to advert to the reference Mr. Edge has made to “*his towns*,” that are lighted with Gas. He speaks of *two whole towns*, but he does not give the size or population of those towns. It is believed that one of them is a town of the Island of Guernsey; and it is so small and unimportant a place, that the Directors do not even know the name of it. A sum of £4000 or £5000 sterling, might be ample to supply such a place with Gas; but when it would be found that a sum of £40,000 or £50,000 had to be laid down (and £6000 thereof would have to be expended in restoring the streets to their former condition) another cause for a little hesitation would rise up. But let us go a step further, and let us see what claim Mr. Edge has to join in the outcry against the Montreal Gas Company. He states that his charge is 10s. per M. cubic feet, and is it not notorious, if we may believe the statements that have constantly been made in the newspapers of this City, that the charge in many towns in England, is 4s. 6d. per M. cubic feet? If such is the case, why is there the discrepancy between that charge and Mr. Edge's? This question was put to Mr. Edge, by the Secretary of this Company, and see how unsatisfactory is his reply. “In reply to your observation that my charge of 10s. appears unreasonable, while in some towns in England, you say it is only charged at 4s. 6d.—It was only at Sheffield, during a ruinous opposition, that the charge was so low. It is now agreed by both Companies, that it shall be 6s. 8d. in future.”

It is for the Shareholders, and for the Public, should the matter go before them, to say whether the question has been candidly answered.